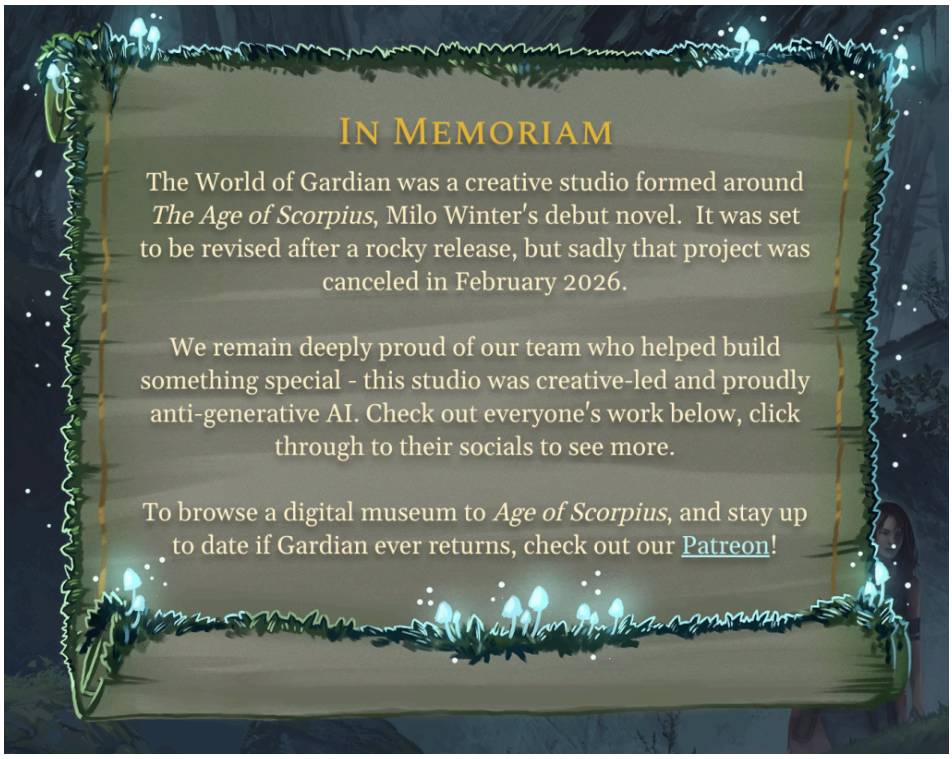
The Age of Scorpius Preliminary Autopsy Report, Personal Writing Projects, and Other Stuff Going on in the Life of a Napoleonic Cryptid

I swear, officer — I didn't see a thing! The tree just jumped out of nowhere and hit him! "Was" — note the past tense I was at work when I got the notification from a …

9 min. read · View original

I swear, officer — I didn't see a thing! The tree just jumped out of nowhere and hit him!


In Memoriam
The World of Gardian was a creative studio formed around *The Age of Scorpius*, Milo Winter's debut novel. It was set to be revised after a rocky release, but sadly that project was canceled in February 2026.
We remain deeply proud of our team who helped build something special - this studio was creative-led and proudly anti-generative AI. Check out everyone's work below, click through to their socials to see more.
To browse a digital museum to *Age of Scorpius*, and stay up to date if Gardian ever returns, check out our Patreon!

"Was" — note the past tense

I was at work when I got the notification from a mutual on Tumblr this had happened. The World of Guardian and The Age of Scorpius is finally kaput. Fin. RIP 20 February 2026. Not even pining for the fjords of Norway. *This is an ex-novel.*

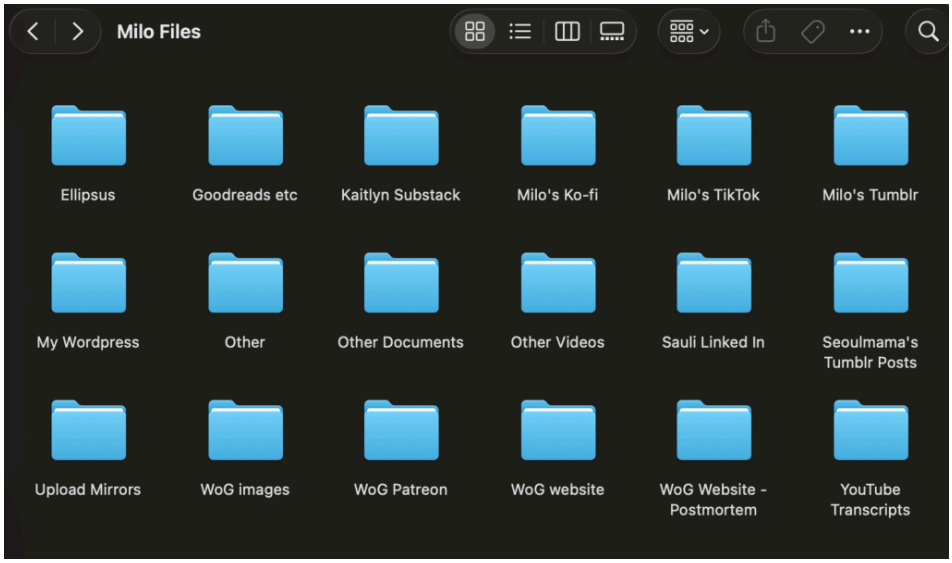
Of course, I wondered if my "Rotary Saw" essay update (found at the bottom) had anything to do with it, that maybe it was the last straw, because I'd only posted my find about Elrose (the project manager) three days before. But I doubt it. The trap was already poised to snap shut.

Call it a journalist's hunch, or maybe an archivist's vibe. The nose knows, y'know? Something didn't feel right a few days ago, around 16-17 February. The World of Gardian Patron hadn't updated in more than a week, despite the promise of new content every Friday.

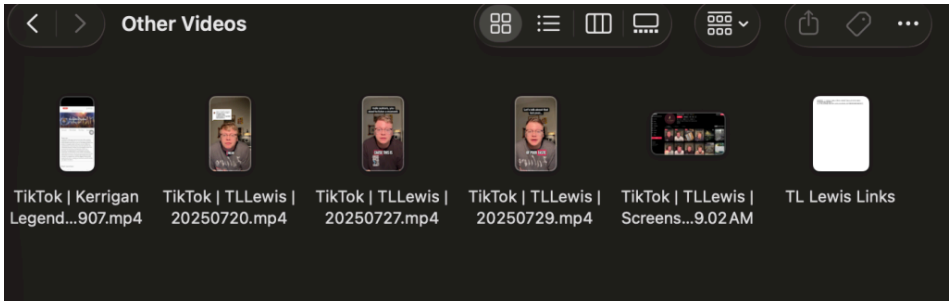
The machine, I figured, was in motion. And I needed to get ahead of it.

I've been in touch with Seoulmama over on Tumblr, who's been running a great series on Milo Winter and his decade-long cycle of hype, misrepresentation, and self-sabotage. While chatting, I offered to host her series over here on my WordPress, because WordPress has better search crawler indexing than Tumblr. And much better than Medium (paywall) or Substack (Nazis). The latter two don't like external links, and prefer readers keep cycling within their walled ecosystems. So, I figured her Milo essays would get better longevity and exposure here.

She agreed to it, and then I thought: *Why stop there?*



This is over 1 GB of data


Other Videos
TikTok | Kerrigan Legend...907.mp4
TikTok | TLLewis | 20250720.mp4
TikTok | TLLewis | 20250727.mp4
TikTok | TLLewis | 20250729.mp4
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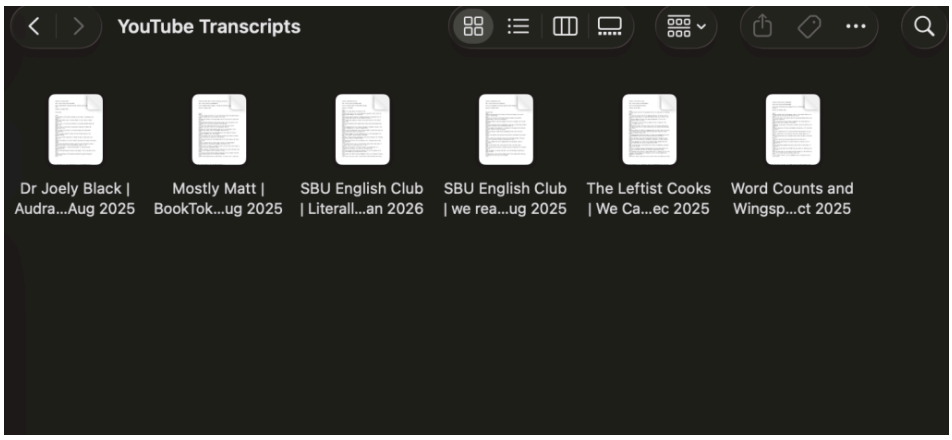
No One is Getting Out of This


YouTube Transcripts
Dr Joely Black | Audra...Aug 2025
Mostly Matt | BookTok...ug 2025
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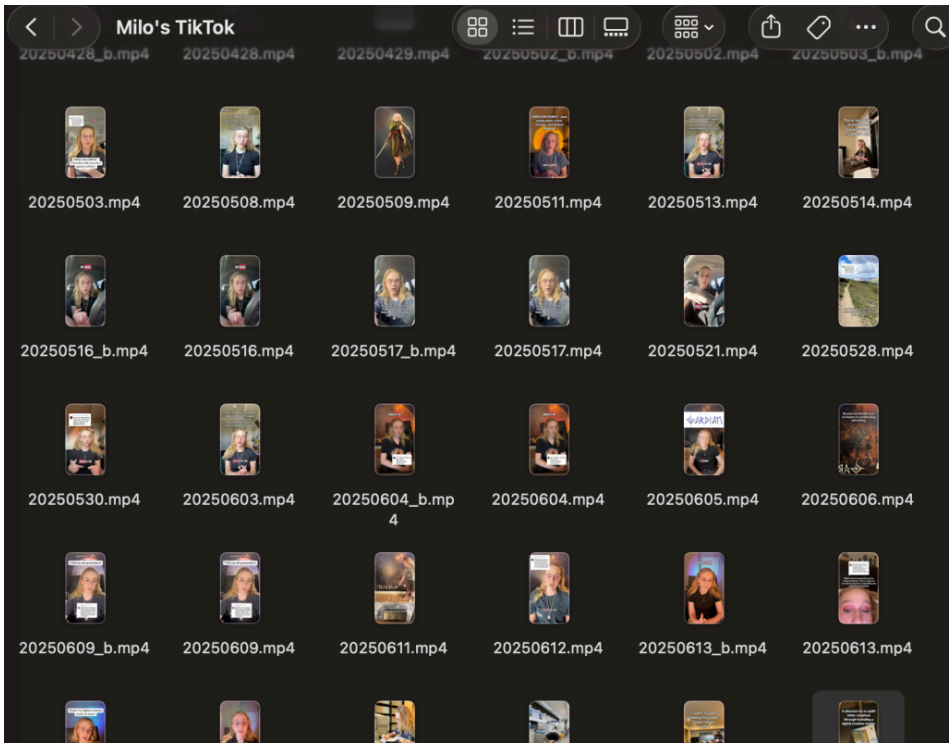
SBU English Club | we rea...ug 2025
The Leftist Cooks | We Ca...ec 2025
Word Counts and Wingsp...ct 2025

Relavant YouTube Discourse



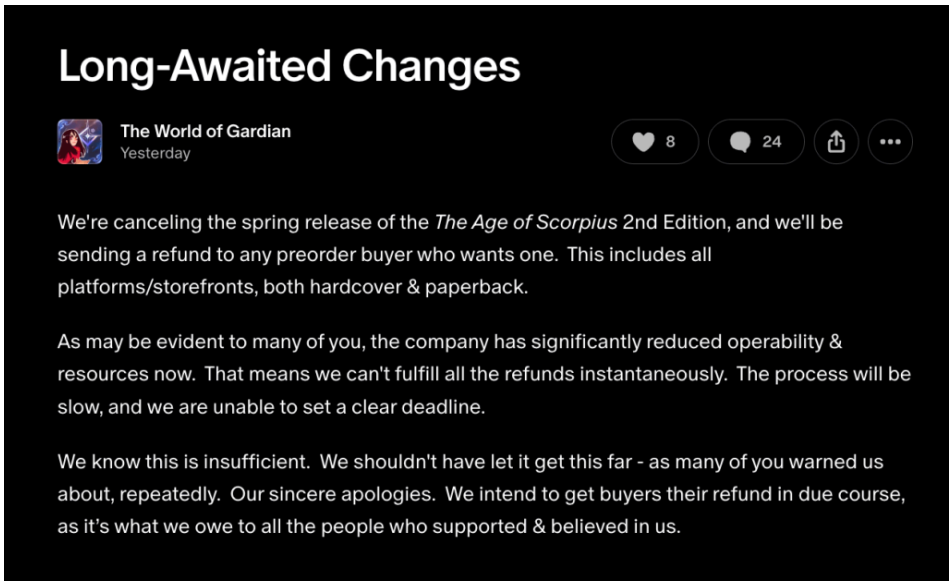
I've captured about 90% of Milo's TikTok videos.

I started siphoning down everything. It felt like I was coming into crunch time. I felt the need to preserve the evidence, and freeze the scene, before the suspects could burn or bury anything that might be possibly incriminating.

The Patreon had a seven day free trial, so I jumped on it. I downloaded most of the Patreon as PDF files, although per Patreon's own Terms of Service, I can't fully share the contents with other parties. I downloaded the entire World of Gardian website as PDFs. I even grabbed the Goodreads reviews and Amazon product pages. Some of the PDFs are a bit broken and messy due to the loss of javascript and CSS, but that's fine — the text is legible, and that's what counts.

I wasn't entirely sure what I was doing, only that my archival raccoon instincts had kicked in. And I was trying to tamp down on some free-floating anxiety going on (more on that later).

Then the afternoon (my timezone) of 20 February hit. And the WoG Patreon — which I had captured in its "before" state — updated with this:


Long-Awaited Changes
The World of Gardian
Yesterday
8
24
We're canceling the spring release of the The Age of Scorpius 2nd Edition, and we'll be sending a refund to any preorder buyer who wants one. This includes all platforms/storefronts, both hardcover & paperback.
As may be evident to many of you, the company has significantly reduced operability & resources now. That means we can't fulfill all the refunds instantaneously. The process will be slow, and we are unable to set a clear deadline.
We know this is insufficient. We shouldn't have let it get this far - as many of you warned us about, repeatedly. Our sincere apologies. We intend to get buyers their refund in due course, as it's what we owe to all the people who supported & believed in us.

There's red flags all over this

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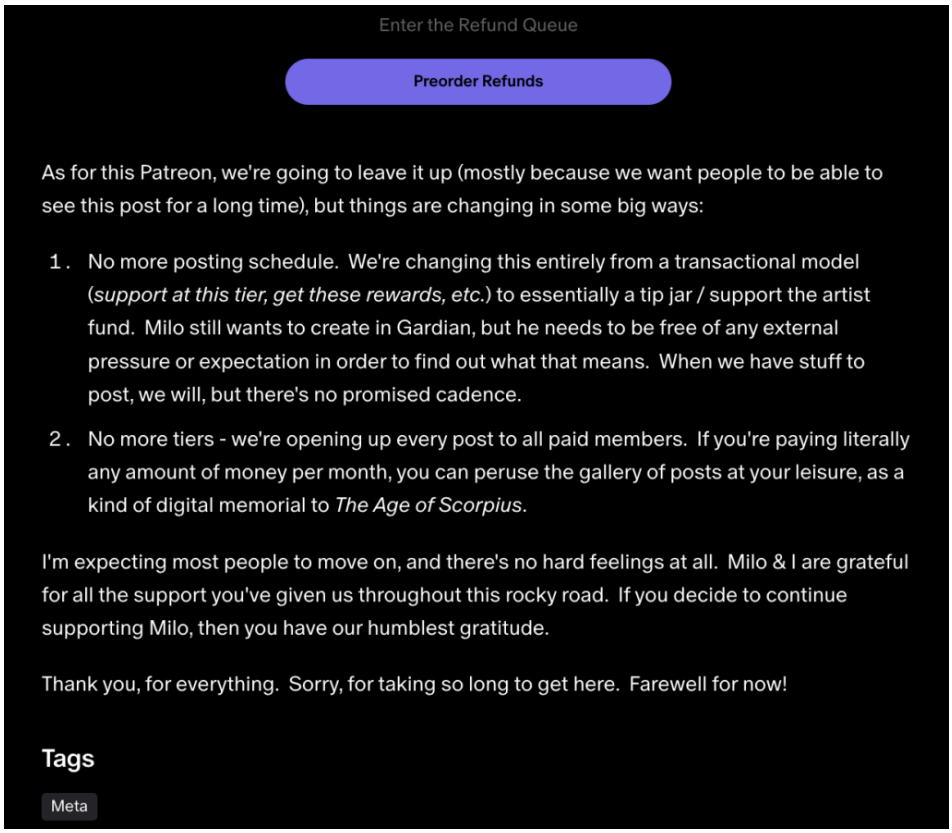
"Canceling the release"? Should have done that fucking months ago. No, the key line is "significantly reduced

operability and resources." TL;DR – "We're broke and the bank is charging us overdraft fees."

Also, no timetable for refunds. "Yeah, we owe you money. Maybe we'll have it for you next month. Or next year. Or maybe at the heat-death of the universe."

And who is this royal "we" here? This framing of collective failure and responsibility? This post has no byline on it. Classic passive-voice crisis management — I seen enough of it in real life to know what I'm looking at here.


Enter the Refund Queue
Preorder Refunds
As for this Patreon, we're going to leave it up (mostly because we want people to be able to see this post for a long time), but things are changing in some big ways:
1. No more posting schedule. We're changing this entirely from a transactional model (*support at this tier, get these rewards, etc.*) to essentially a tip jar / support the artist fund. Milo still wants to create in Gardian, but he needs to be free of any external pressure or expectation in order to find out what that means. When we have stuff to post, we will, but there's no promised cadence.
2. No more tiers - we're opening up every post to all paid members. If you're paying literally any amount of money per month, you can peruse the gallery of posts at your leisure, as a kind of digital memorial to *The Age of Scorpius*.
I'm expecting most people to move on, and there's no hard feelings at all. Milo & I are grateful for all the support you've given us throughout this rocky road. If you decide to continue supporting Milo, then you have our humblest gratitude.
Thank you, for everything. Sorry, for taking so long to get here. Farewell for now!
Tags
Meta

Satisfaction is not guarenteed

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Now he's hanging out a virtual tip jar, and all paywalled Patreon posts are available to anyone who drops any amount into it.

And that makes me wonder why he's doing that.

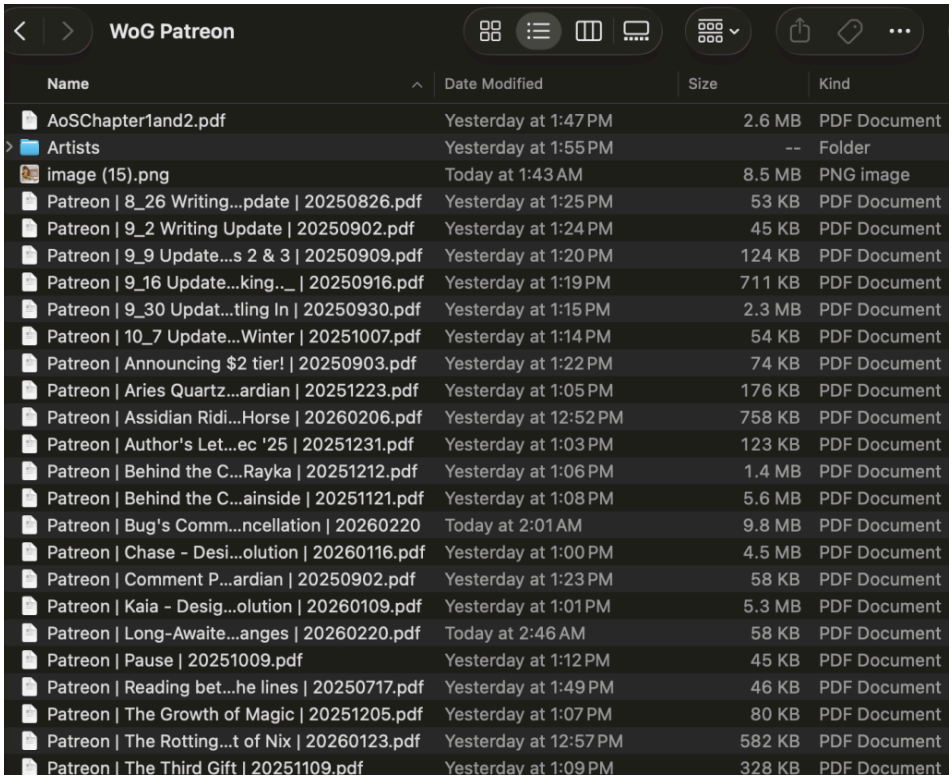
This was a multi-artist project. Did all of the artists consent to having the monetization on their work changed like this? Is the tip jar there to avoid complete de-monetization for artwork that is not Milo's and the artist may retain the original rights? How are tip jar funds distributed among the multi-artist collective?

Furthermore, the anonymous writer frames tip jar funds as donations, but Patreon doesn't care what you call it because you're still accepting payments through Patreon. One may call it a donation, but Patreon still sees it as a payment and will issue the appropriate 1099-Ks on it for the 2026 tax season.

What is this "Milo and I"? Who is "I" here? There is no byline on this post. Is it Milo and his sock puppet to make up for the royal "we"? It's a diffusion and deflection of responsibility. *You* were driving this car, Milo, and you were the one who stomped on the accelerator when everyone was yelling at you to stop. You, Milo, would have been better off you just deleted this Patreon entirely, make the post about refunds on the WoG website with feeder links in from TikTok et al. But no, you gotta erect a tombstone over your own creative grave.

(Yeah, I just paraphrased your own poetry back at you. I have a copy. Don't ask how I got it.)

But the ending of the World of Gardian and the cancellation of The Age of Scorpius means … what exactly, for me?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Patreon | The Rotting...t of Nix | 20260123.pdf Yesterday at 12:57 PM 582 KB PDF Document
Patreon | The Third Gift | 20251109.pdf Yesterday at 1:09 PM 328 KB PDF Document

All of this captured just hours before the cancellation announcement

Seoulmama over on Tumblr has no intentions of ending her project of exposing Milo's decade-long con. And that got me to thinking about what I'm going to do about this massive pile of stuff I'm sitting on.

I'm going to create a corpus. *I'm going to make sure Milo's bad decisions are immortalized in four dimensions* for future scholars and researchers (and those who just want to sip the tea). This is what I do. Records and archives are my wheelhouse.

For better or worse, *The Age of Scorpius* was an event that shaped the discourse around author responsibility and independent publishing. Plenty of readers were saying they'd never trust an independently published book again, while indie authors were raging at Milo for poisoning the well. And since I am an indie author, this is *PERSONAL*.

It's an event that deserves to be remembered for its impact.

Project Scorpius

BookTok, Virality, and Impact: A Sociological, Cultural, and Literary Corpus of *The Age of Scorpius* Discourse Event

Compiled by Duroc's Desk Drawer Publishing

Abstract

This collection documents the Age of Scorpius publishing controversy as a born-digital discourse event situated within mid-2020s platform-mediated literary culture.

From February 2025 and into the summer of that year, the book generated hype and discussion on TikTok, YouTube, blogs, and independent commentary spaces. Post-publication discourse included downstream indie publishing effects, viral marketing "hype," and author–audience relations.

As the situation continued to develop into the fall of 2025, the situation became less about the book and the legality of author behavior and alleged financial mismanagement. More information was discovered that showed a disconnection between the author's presentation of their past and expertise and material reality.

The corpus assembles primary creator posts, web pages, and social media posts. Secondary source response videos, analytical essays, and related contextual materials are included to preserve the discursive ecosystem surrounding the event. Materials are presented to support future analysis of reception, platform rhetoric, and the life-cycle of viral literary controversy.

Project Scorpius — still in rough draft, and unlike Milo's MO, it ain't ready until it's ready

Let me give you the abstract in full.

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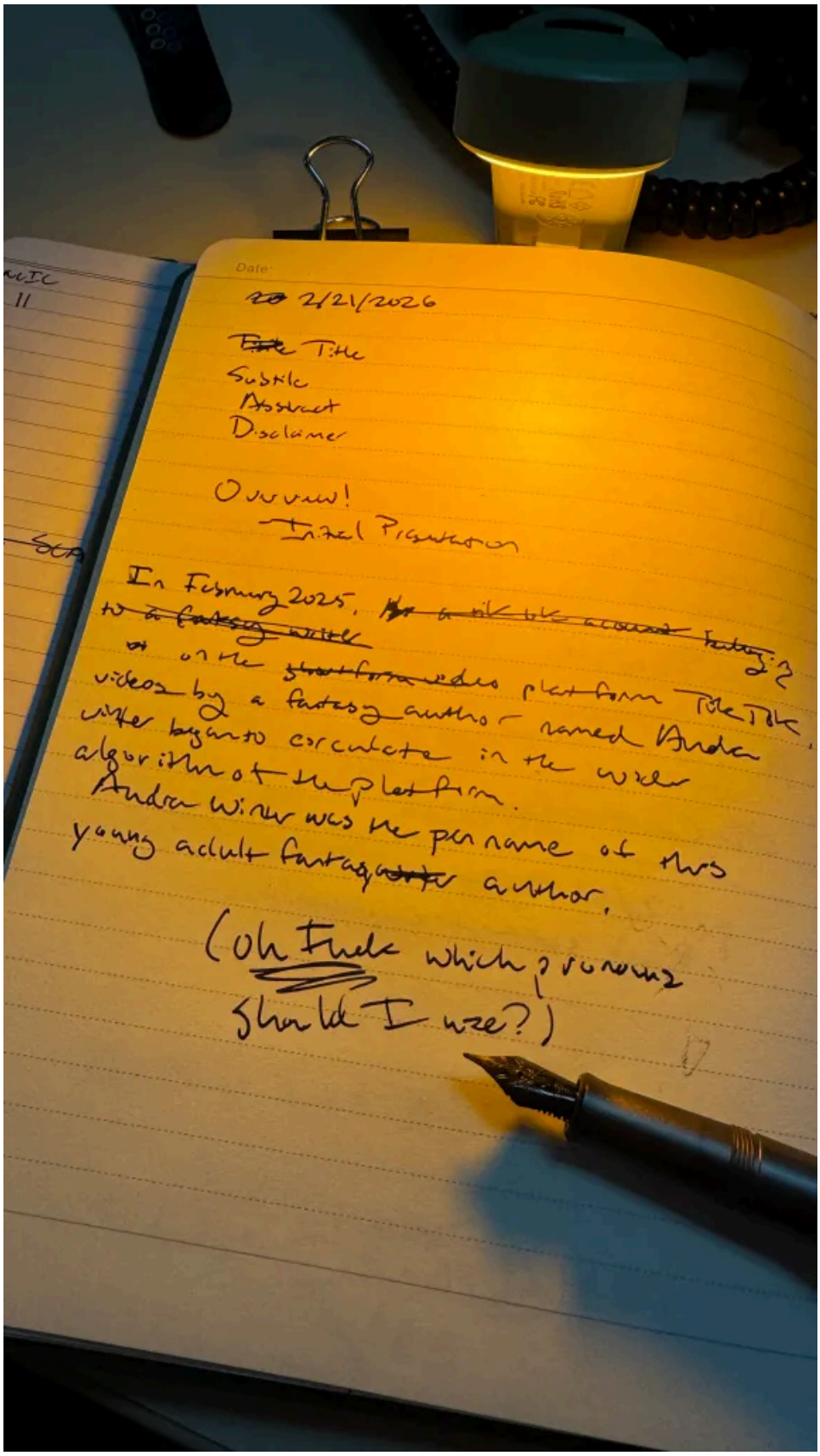
> The corpus assembles primary creator posts, web pages, and social media posts. Secondary source response videos, analytical essays, and related contextual materials are included to preserve the discursive ecosystem surrounding the event. Materials are presented to support future analysis of reception, platform rhetoric, and the life-cycle of viral literary controversy.
>
> The intent is not to adjudicate the principle subject — Milo Winter — or the body of his work, but to create continuity for future researchers. This event generated discourse across multiple disciplinary fields, including politics, gender discourse, literature, pop culture, business law, media studies, international law, economics, and applied psychology.
>
> This archive exists to ensure that a culturally consequential moment in digital publishing discourse remains accessible as a coherent evidentiary record for readers, researchers, and historians of contemporary literary culture.
>
> (If you're just here for the tea … well, no shame in that.)

I was working on the Overview section at work today, and immediately hit a brick wall. Sorry for the shitty photo, my

job is like working in a cave. It's dark and it's cold and all I have is a crappy book light to write by.



The author's handwriting sucks.

At least I had fun with my fountain pen. My autism likes the tactile quality (or the actual lack thereof). I think I figured out the pronoun issue, however. We'll come to that when we come to it.

I also have a pile of other writing projects I want to finish. Not only do I have half-finished drafts sitting here in WordPress, but I have two stories I want to finish before the end of April.

Jean Lannes — 1769-1809

I'm still working on the third chapter of *The Refuge of the Lost Drunk*. I've been forcing myself to write, even when I'm not feeling it, because fifty words of suck is still better than zero words of suck.

In April, the OG Fic Fest deadline approaches on r/fanfictionexchange, and I have a fic starring Laurent and Césaire (from a previous story, *Liberté, Égalité, Sodomie*) having their meet-cute in 1788 while standing among the smoldering wreckage of Thomas Jefferson's public reputation. The story, like *Refuge*, is only partly finished, and I may end up prioritizing it to get it in under the deadline.

But. There is always a "but."

My work schedule is changing at the end of February. I'm leaving the night shift for days. Not only is that a wildly tonal change for me, but also the workload changes. I'm not sure how I'm going to deal with the work-life balance changes yet, but I am trying to get out of my current department and into one that's friendlier to my ASD.

This is on top of having sold my mother's car last month. I'm her primary caregiver, and she's not driving any more. Which means I do it all.

This is going to impact my writing schedule, obviously. And that's why I've been pretty quiet across social media and Discord.

So, fifty words of suck, when I can manage it. It's better than zero words of suck. I'm not dead. Just trying to get by. Sometimes, that's all anyone can do.

I have fifty words of suck to put out tonight before I turn into a pumpkin. Ciao. And thanks for reading.

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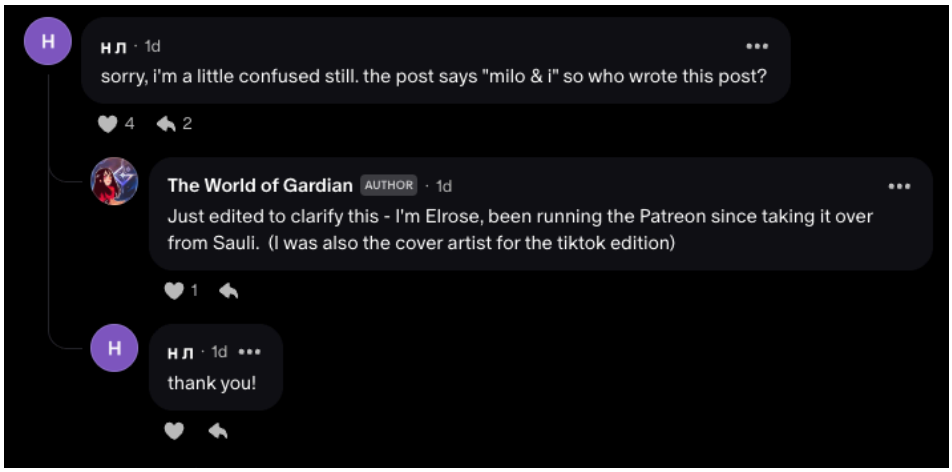
24 February 2026 Update:

Elrose took ownership of the cancellation post.

Clarification here.


H
НЛ · 1d
sorry, i'm a little confused still. the post says "milo & i" so who wrote this post?
4
2
The World of Gardian
AUTHOR
· 1d
Just edited to clarify this - I'm Elrose, been running the Patreon since taking it over from Sauli. (I was also the cover artist for the tiktok edition)
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And maybe it's just me, I don't think that was an accident.

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